

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 00858 232318Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 L-03 H-01 SCA-01 SSO-00
INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01
USIE-00 /049 W
-----232359 018706 /75

O R 232255Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3455
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 0858

EMO. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, SHUM, PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF US CITIZEN PRIEST

REFS: (A) SAN SALVADOR 0803, (B) GUATEMALA 1063, (C) SAN
JOSE 0704, (D) STATE 39086

1. AS PREDICATED REFTEL A, AMERICAN PRIEST BERNARD ANTHONY
SURVEIL WAS ARRESTED ON FEBRUARY 18 AND EXPELLED FROM EL SALVADOR.
PER REFTEL B THE ROUGH PASSAGE THROUGH GUATEMALA APPEARED A
RESULT OF INEPT OFFICIAL HANDLING WHICH CONTRASTS WITH THE
STUDIOUSLY CAREFUL AND "CORRECT" TREATMENT HERE BY SALVADORAN
DIRGEN OF IMMIGRATION. A BELGIAN PRIEST WAS EXPELLED FROM
EL SALVADOR JUST BEFORE SURVIL'S EXPULSION, AND THE TWO
LINKED UP ENROUTE MO GUATEMALA CITY. A SECOND GS PRIEST,

LAWRENCE F. MCCULLOCH WAS BARRED FROM RE-ENTRY INTO COUNTRY
AT LLOPANGO AIRPORT ON FEBRUARY 19 AFTER TRIP TO COSTA RICA.
HE PROCEEDED ON TO GUATEMALA.

2. LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S
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EXPLANATION FOR EXPULSIONS QUOTE THE SALVADORAN
CONSTITUTION, WHICH SAYS THAT "FOREIGNERS WHO DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL
POLITICS LOSE THEIR
RIGHT TO LIVE HERE." THE GOES CHARGES

THAT FATHER SURVIL CONTINUED HIS "SUBVERSIVE"

ACTIVITIES AFTER BEING WARNED BY DIRGEN OF IMMIGRATION
OF POSSIBLE EXPULSION SHOULD HE CONTINUE THAT COURSE
OF ACTION.

3. AN AD APPEARED IN FEBRUARY 22 PAPERS IN THE NAME
OF OUTGOING ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR, PROTESTING THE
EXPULSION OF FOREIGN PRIESTS FROM EL SALVADOR, AND THE

"ILLEGAL" FORM IN WHICH THESE TWO WERE APPREHENDED AND
EXPELLED WITHOUT GOES NOTIFICATION TO CHURCH AUTHORITIES.

THE AD SUPPORTED THE EXPELLED PRIESTS IN THEIR WORK,
CLAIMING THAT
THEY HAD ADHERED TO CHURCH TEACHINGS. THE
CHURCH'S ATTEMPT TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF THEIR OWN
WAS TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT ARCHBISHOP
CHAVEZ INCREASINGLY HAS BEEN DEFENDING HIS PRIESTS PUBLICLY
AGAINST CHARGES OF COMMUNISM AND MEDDLING IN PARTISAN POLITICS.

4. GIVEN THE GOES' DEFENSIVE AND PROTECTIVE STANCE
DURING THE RECENT PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, THE EARLIER WARNINGS,
FOLLOWED BY THE EXPULSIONS, CAME AS NO GREAT SURPRISE. THEY
ALSO SERVE NOTICE TO THE MORE ACTIVE (I.E., VOCAL) PRIESTS,
AND OTHERS, THAT THEY ARE BEING MONITORED.
LOZANO

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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